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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

MAERTENS, et al. Atty. Ref.: 2551-111; Confirmation No. 7439
Appl. No. 09/899,082 Group: 1634
Filed: July 6, 2001 Examiner: Whisenant
For: PROCESS FOR TYPING OF HCV ISOLATES

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March 17, 2004

Office of Patent Publications
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

REQUEST

The Examiner is requested to confirm that document WO 92/10588 listed on the PTO-1449 Form bearing the OIPE date of February 4, 2004, an initialed and executed copy of which was returned with the Notice of Allowance dated March 10, 2004, has been considered. Specifically, the executed copy of the PTO-1449 Form returned with the Notice of Allowance does not bear the Examiner's initials in the left-hand column next to reference WO 92/10588. The applicants presume the Examiner considered the reference as the entirety of the PTO-1449 Form has been signed and dated and the WO reference has not been lined through however confirmation of the same is requested. A copy of the PTO-1449 Form received with the Notice of Allowance dated March 10, 2004, is attached for the Examiner's convenience.

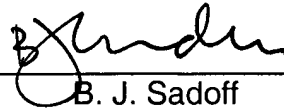
MAERTENS, et al.
Appl. No. 09/899,082
February 23, 2004

The Examiner is requested to advise the undersigned if anything further is required in this regard.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____



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